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THE EARLY OUT-POSTS OF WISCONSIN.

Green Bay for Two Hundred Years,

1639-1839.

Annals of Prairie du Chien.

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INTRODUCTORY.

The object of preparing the following papers on two of the early outposts of Wisconsin, has been to collect and preserve in a convenient form the leading events that have taken place in this section of country, from the earliest known period to a comparatively modern date. It is proper, as well as instructive, to be acquainted with events which transpired when our country was in its infancy, that we may learn to realize the progress of civilization and enterprise.

The first European visitor to the "Bayes des Puants," the present Green Bay, came in 1639, nineteen years after the emigration of the Puritans, in the "Mayflower," to America. Charles I was then King of England, and had begun the war against Scotland; and three years after the great civil war and revolution in Great Britain broke out between the Cavaliers and Roundheads. Louis XIII was King of France, and had nearly closed his reign, when the event above alluded to took place. All of Europe was more or less in commotion at this period. The French government had early manifested a disposition to extend her conquests in America, and as early as 1604, had colonized

Acadia. In 1608, Quebec was founded, and in 1663 Canada was made a royal colony.

The large profits arising from the sales of furs and peltries brought from Canada, including the nations residing on the great chain of lakes of the Northwest, induced many of the nobility and gentry of France to advance their fortunes in the new world; and the business transacted by these traders with the Indians, was very lucrative.

The Jesuit Fathers, ever anxious to carry the news of the Gospel to unknown countries, early became impressed with the importance of extending their labors to the Indians on the great lakes, and as early as 1660, had established a mission on the south side of the western extremity of Lake Superior, at a place called Chegoimegon; and in 1669, Father ALLOUEZ organized a mission at Green Bay. To the Jesuit Fathers this country is indebted for the first reliable information of the wealth and resources of the great Northwest; and the labors performed by them, which were very arduous, and in which many lost their lives by privations and cruel persecutions, were carried forward in the praiseworthy desire to Chris-

tianize the Indian races; and while thus engaged, the reports of their journeyings transmitted to the Superior of the Order at Quebec, and which were published in France, directed attention to the resources of New France, of which Wisconsin formed a part. Since which time, great changes have taken place; France lost her power, and it was given to England, which nation in due time relinquished it to the United States. Our State has been under the jurisdiction of Virginia, attached to the Northwest Territory, the States of Indiana and Michigan; and the cities of Green Bay and Prairie du Chien, from being frontier towns, and in the midst of an Indian country, are thriving and growing places of business, the former with a population (1870) of 4,661, and including Fort Howard 6,082, and the latter of 2,709.

GREEN BAY.

1630 It is now generally conceded by all writers on early American history, that the first reliable information we have of the topography and the people residing in the vicinity of Green Bay was derived from the *Sieur Jean Nicolle*.

This enterprising explorer came to Canada in 1631. After acquiring a knowledge of the Algonquin tongue, he was sent to make a treaty of peace with the Iroquois, in which he was successful. He was for eight or nine years with the Nipissings, and became almost an Indian himself, though a zealous Catholic. After the restoration of Canada to the French, he was made interpreter and commissary of the colony, which office he filled till about 1639, when he was sent to Green Bay, where he met some four or five thousand men, and concluded a peace with them. In this year he ascended Fox river to the portage, and embarked on a river flowing west (the Wisconsin), and penetrated further in those unknown countries than any previous discoverer. Father *Vincent* says that had he sailed three days more on a great river which flows from the Lake, (Green Bay) he would have found the sea. It is generally presumed that he mistook for the sea, the Indian words "Great Water," applied to the Mississippi.

This enterprising adventurer while on a benevolent mission to rescue a poor Abenaki from the Algonquins lost his life by the capsizing of his boat, Oct. 31, 1642. The names and localities as well as the races and languages of the Wisconsin tribes were learned by him from actual observation; and this information was the

basis on which the subsequent efforts of the Jesuit Fathers were put forth.

1639-1642. We find no accounts of explorations in this section in this interval of time. The nations in this locality were generally known as the "Puanis" or "Stinkards"—not from any peculiar odor peculiar to them, but because they resided at the shores of a sea far distant to the West, the waters of which being salt they were called "the people of the stinking water." Father *Marquette* says: "This Bay bears a name which has not so bad a meaning in the Indian language, for they call it rather Salt Bay than Feild Bay, although among them it is almost the same, and this is the name they give to the sea. This induced us to make very exact researches to discover whether there were not in these parts some salt springs, but we could not find any." In 1642 the Iroquois war broke out in all its fury, which proved fatal to all efforts to Christianize these tribes, though the Jesuits were anxious to establish missions among them. Mr. Bancroft remarks, "The French were looking towards the homes of the Sioux in the Valley of the Mississippi five years before the New England Eliot had addressed the tribes of Indians that dwelt within six miles of Boston harbor."

1654. Father *Le Mercier* writes to his "Superior" at Quebec "that at the islands of the lake of the people of the sea, known as 'Stinkards,' there are many tribes whose language closely resembles the Algonquin, and that they are only nine days journey from the Great Lake; and that if any person would send thirty Frenchmen into that country, not only would they gain many souls to God, but would receive a profit above the expenses incurred, because the finest peltries come in from those quarters."

1655. Rev. *Jean de Quens* writes "That of the nations of the sea known as the Stinkards, one of them numbers 60 villages, another 40, and another 30. He was told that 300 men met at one assembly for the purpose of making a treaty of peace; that these nations are constantly making war on the more distant nations."

Fifty canoes of these Indians visited Quebec this year, and 30 Frenchmen returned with them to obtain peltries. Two priests also accompanied them.

1656-1669. We find no record of the Jesuit Fathers in this interval, at the "Baye," although the mission at Keweenaw, on Lake Superior, was founded. In the year 1669 it was determined to make an effort to establish a mission at Green Bay, and on the 3d of November of this year Father *Claudius Allouez* left Sault St. Marie for this purpose with two French companions and two canoes of

Potawatomes. With great danger and hardship he reached the Bay and spent the winter preaching to the Potawatomes, Menomonees, Sacs, Foxes and Winnebagoes, whom he found mingled there. He established a mission on the Fox river at the "Rapide des Peres." He said his first mass, December 3d, the Festival of St Francis Xavier, and called the mission by his name, at which six Frenchmen at the Bay joined in the devotions with the Father and his two companions. In September of this year he was joined by Father *Marquette*. *Allouez* writes that he found here only one village comprising four nations, containing about 600 souls, and says all these nations have their fields of Indian corn, gourds, beans and tobacco, and saw clouds of swans, bustards and ducks.

1670. On the 16th of April of this year, he began to ascend Fox river, and passing two rapids reached Winnebago lake, and crossing it came to the river. He visited the Outagamies or Foxes and again ascended the river. He traversed the lake or marsh on the Wisconsin, and says it was a beautiful river running southwest, and leads to the great river named Mississippi. On the 19th of April he saw an eclipse of the sun. The Foxes number 400 armed men. He subsequently visited the Menomonees and Winnebagoes, having learned their language, and of the latter he baptized 5 children and 7 adults. Father *Andre* was associated with him a part of this season. The Superior, Father *Dablon* came to Green Bay this year; *Andre* gathered the children at the Bay and taught them to sing and was associated with *Allouez*. This year *Nicholas Perrot*, interpreter to a party sent by *Fallon*, Intendant of Canada to search for copper mines and to take possession of the country for the King of France, proceeded to Green Bay to invite the tribes to meet St. Lussan at Sault Ste. Marie. He passed from Green Bay to the Illinois by Lake Michigan.

1671. The Missions at the Bay were attended by Father *Allouez* and *Andre* this year, and there do not appear to be any unusual events occurring. The former applying himself to the nations who are removed to the woods, and the latter to those who are on the borders of the Lake Puants. The mission had been so successful that in 1673 *Marquette* stated that "The Fathers" had baptized over two thousand of the natives.

Allouez was ministering to the Potawatomes with *Dablon* and *Marquette* and the nations, adjoining and during the year went up Lake Michigan, stopping at Milwaukee then occupied by the Mascoutin and Kickapoo Indians employed, says Bancroft "in confirming

the influence of France in the regions extending from Green Bay to the head of Lake Superior, mingling happiness with suffering, and winning endearing glory by their fearless perseverance.

1673. The great event of this year, was the discovery of the Upper Mississippi. In the preceding year the French Government took steps to accomplish this end, and on the 4th of June the French Minister wrote to Talon then Intendant of Canada "as there is nothing more important for the colony than the discovery of a passage to the South Sea, his Majesty wishes you give it your attention." *Joliet* was appointed to this work, and *Marquette* missionary. In the spring of 1673 they embarked in two frail bark canoes and arrived at Green Bay June 7th, 1673. The party of seven Frenchmen and two Miami guides, passed up the Fox river to the Portage, (twenty-seven hundred paces,) and crossed over to the Wisconsin and slowly sailed down its current amid its vine-clad isles and its countless sand-bars. No sound broke the stillness; no human form appeared and at last after sailing seven days, on the 17th of June, they happily glided into the great river. After an absence of four months, *Marquette* returned to Green Bay by way of Lake Michigan, having travelled, as nearly as can be calculated, 2,549 miles.

1674. The missions went steadily on. Father *Louis Andre* directed at St. Xavier his little church of 500 Christians. His house at Green Bay had been burnt but he still persevered living almost constantly in his canoe and going from station to station along the Bay, visiting the six tribes of his parish. On the 25th of October, *Marquette*, who had recovered his health which he had lost in his journey to the Mississippi, set out from Green Bay for Kaskaskia with two assistants. They coasted along the shore of Lake Michigan. On the 23d of November his malady had returned, but he succeeded in reaching Chicago river on the 4th of December. After wintering in that vicinity, he reached Kaskaskia on the 6th of April, 1675. This distinguished explorer died soon after, and was buried on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan.

1675-6. In the year 1676 the venerable Father *Charles Albanel*, became Superior of the Western Missions, and took up his post at Green Bay, where again a fine church was soon raised by the *Rapide des Pere*, partly by the aid of western traders, and among other of *Nicholas Perrott*, well known as an early western explorer. The Illinois Mission having become vacant by the death of *Marquette*, Father *Allouez* was assigned to that post, and left Green Bay October, 1676.

1677-9. In the year 1679 the celebrated explorer, *M. Robert Cavalier DeSalle*, accompanied by *Henry DeTonty*, Father's *Louis Hennepin*, *Membre* and *Watteaux* made a voyage up the Lake in the first vessel built above the Falls of Niagara, "*The Griffin*," and arrived at the "Bay of the Fetid," (Green Bay,) on the 2d of September. While here he collected a quantity of furs, and sent the vessel back, which was unfortunately shipwrecked. La Salle, with his company of seventeen men and priests, continued their route, by canoes, to the river of the Miami's (St. Joseph's.) The further history of this eminent adventurer—of his travels and misfortunes on the Lower Mississippi are of great interest, but are omitted, as foreign to the objects of this paper.

1680. Father *Louis Hennepin* who accompanied *LaSalle*, parted with him February 29, 1680, and made a journey up the Mississippi, and was the first to discover the falls, which he named the "Falls of St. Anthony, of Padua." After a series of remarkable adventures among the Indian tribes he returned to Green Bay by way of the Wisconsin and Fox rivers. He found here, Frenchmen trading without a license. The published narrative of his journeys is full of contradictions and misrepresentations, and while his account of Wisconsin and the upper country may be regarded as truthful, a large part of his work cannot be depended upon. The Mission at Green Bay was sustained this year by Father *Enjalran*. *DeTonty* established a station here, with a military force.

1683-1684. *Le Sueur* came for the first time up the Fox river from Green Bay and down the Wisconsin to visit the country of the Sioux. This year *Nicholas Perrot* took command at the post, and the year following (1684) *Lieut. DuLuth* arrived, and assumed military occupancy under the superintendency of the commandant at Mackinaw. While making preparations to go to war against the Iroquois, he was assisted by *Perrot*, who was then trading among the Foxes, near the Bay, in collecting allies.

We find no further accounts of the Mission on the Bay. The former opposition of *LaSalle* to the Jesuits, tended materially to injure the missionary cause. Dissensions among the Indians followed, and the French finally lost much of their hold on the affections of the western tribes. England had begun to contest with France for the supremacy of the northwest, and soon we lose all traces of the labors of the missionaries in this section.

1685-89. On the 8th of May, 1689, *Perrot*, who was then commanding for the

King at the post of the Nadouesious, commissioned by the Marquis *De Denonville* Governor of Canada, to manage the interests of commerce among the Indian tribes and people of the Bay des Puants, took possession, in the name of the King, of the countries inhabited by said tribes. The record says the papers were signed in duplicate, one at the post Ft. Anthony, and the other at the Bay. The document was signed by *Jos. Jean Marest*, *S. J. N. Perrot*, *Legardeur De Caumont Le Sueur*, *Boris Guillot*, commanding the French in the neighborhood of the Wisconsin river on the Mississippi, and three others. *Perrot*, in transacting this business, went up the Fox river to the town of the Miamis and Mascoutins, descended the Wisconsin and up the Mississippi to the Sioux country. While at the Bay he presented to the mission of St. Francis Xavier an elegant silver ostensorium, which was dug up a few years since when digging for a foundation of a new building on the site of the ancient mission house. It had his name engraved upon it, with the date of the presentation, 1680.

Baron LeHontan visited Green Bay Sept. 29, of this year (1699) and according to his statement was entertained in a distinguished manner by the Sauts, Potawatomes and Menomonees and passed up the Fox river. He says "This is a place of great trade for skins and Indian corn. These the savages sell to the *Courier de Bois*. This is the nearest and most convenient passage to the river Mississippi." While at the mouth of the Fox river his attention was directed to the tides of the lake. *Marquette* and other early explorers had previously noticed the same.

1690-1700. We find no record of visits to this section during these years. The trade in peltries was very large and undoubtedly there was much business transacted in this department. In 1699 we find that the missionary priest, *St. Cosme* left Mackinaw Sept. 14, and on the 18th arrived off the Bay of Puants and camped on an island; but for fear of the Foxes who would not suffer any one to pass up their river, he took the west coast of Lake Michigan arriving at Melwarick October 5. *LeSueur* came up the Mississippi and on Sept. 1, 1699, passed the Wisconsin and proceeded up to St. Peter's river. In his first journey, (1693) he came from the Mississippi from Green Bay and the Fox and Wisconsin rivers.

1700-1730. During this interval the Sauts and Foxes occupying the valley of the Fox river had become so exasperated against the French that they cut off all communication between the posts on the frontier, extending from Detroit on the east to Green Bay and Lake Superior on the west. The numerous acts of

barbarity in killing and plundering all who came within their reach, caused the French government to send several expeditions into the valley of the Fox against these nations, viz: by *DeLoweigny*, in 1716; *DeLagnery*, 1728; *Marin* in March 1730, *DeVilliers* in September of that year. By these operations, these intractable nations were severely punished, and the beautiful valley occupied by them was brought prominently to the notice of the French Canadian adventurers. On this historical fact is founded the claims of France to the Green Bay country. For further information of these French expeditions see "Collections of State Historical Society of Wisconsin."

In July, 1721, Father *Charlevoix*, the distinguished historian of New France, visited this section in company with Capt. *DeMontigny*, who was appointed to take charge of the Fort, and makes the following remarks: "we have in the Bay, a Fort, which stands on the west side of the Outagamies, (Fox river) one half a league from its mouth, and before we arrive at it, we leave behind on the left hand a village of the lakes. The Otchagras have lately come and seated themselves near us, and have built their cabins above the Fort. The missionary who is lodged near the commandant, (probably Father *Chardon*, who was at the Fort at that time), hopes when he has learned their language, to find them more docile than the Sakis, among whom he labors with very little success. Their greatest fault is stealing. The new commandant was received with great demonstrations of joy." His attention was also directed to the tides.

In 1726, *Amiton* was commandant at the Fort, and Father *Chardon* still there.

In 1728, the war against the Foxes embarrassed the operation of the missionaries, and from that time, says Dr. Shea, "the Ottawa Mission is almost unknown till the days of the last Jesuit Missionaries of the West."

Father *Emanuel Crespel*, who was almoner to a party of 4,000 Frenchmen, under *DeLignery*, in 1728, against the Foxes, published a small volume of his connection with the expedition, says he arrived at the village of the Puants, August 24, 1728.

This year (1728) Father *Guignas* arrived at Green Bay, August 8th, and was received by the nation of Puants at their village, where he found 60 to 80 men. He proceeded out to the cabin of the Foxes, where he found 200 men on Fox river in bark cabins. He then went up the river to the portage and descended the Wisconsin, and from thence proceeded up the Mississippi to Lake Pepin.

1731—1745. The first permanent settle-

ment of Green Bay, and also of Wisconsin, was made in the year 1745. *Augustin DeLanglade*, and his son Charles, left Mackinaw in 1745, and migrated to Green Bay, where they became the principal proprietors of the soil. They settled on the east side of Fox river, near its mouth, somewhat above and opposite the old French post, and near the residence of the late Judge J. P. Arndt. They were accompanied by *M. Souigny*, the son-in-law of the Sieur *Augustin DeLanglade*, and his wife. They were afterwards joined by Mons. *Carron*, who had been for more than twenty years an Indian trader, and some others. Probably some eight persons, formed this first colony in Wisconsin. Capt. De Velie was in command of the small garrison. The little settlement appeared to have increased very slowly, and the troops to have been withdrawn at some period after the termination of the Fox war and prior to the commencement of the old French and Indian war of 1754. *Auguste De Langlade* continued in the Indian trade, and Charles *De Langlade* as Indian agent.

1745—1760. In October 1747 we find Capt. *De Vorchieres* (or *De Vercher*) in command and is reported to have had good success in quieting the Indians. Shortly after he was ordered to Lake St. Francis.

In 1754 the Sieur *Perrier Marin* who was then in command made a treaty with the Indians, and reported "that he had procured repose for them by the peace concluded with the *Christinaux*."

In 1756 Capt. *Dumas*, (probably commandant,) caused a peace to be concluded between the Illinois and the nations at the Bay. The French and Indian war had now commenced and although it does not appear that it had any special influence for good or evil upon the Green Bay settlement as it was too far remote to feel any sensible effects from the operations of the combatants. It, however, opened a new field for the enterprising spirit of *Charles DeLanglade*. In 1755, with the Ottawas, Chippewas, Menomonees and other tribes, he went for the defense of Fort du Quesne, and was a commanding officer. In 1757, he served under Montcalm, in the capture of Fort William Henry, at the head of Lake George. The next year, he was at Ticonderoga and Crown Point, and at the last great battle that settled the question of supremacy, at the Plains of Abraham, where his great commander *Montcalm* was killed. The subsequent career of this early settler at Green Bay, may be found in the "Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin."

In 1758, we find that eleven Canadians were killed by the *Folles Avoines* at the

Bay. The commandant escaped, and a store house was pillaged.

In 1759, an application was made to Sir Wm. Johnson by merchants of Canada for the confirmation of a grant made by the Marquis *Vaudreuil* in 1759, and confirmed by the King of France in January, 1760, to Mons. *Rigaud* and Madame de *Vaudreuil*, and afterwards sold by them to William Grant. This concession or grant was no less than the Fort at La Baye des Puants in Lake Michigan with an extensive territory over which the Grantee was to have the exclusive right of trade, with liberty to erect houses and to make establishments thereon. This grant which was made when the French possessions were passing from their hands, and as a perquisite to a favorite, was rejected by the Government Board of Trade. At the close of the war Lieut. *Charles de Langlade* was by the Government of Canada, September 3, 1760, ordered to take charge of and conduct the Canadians under his command to Mackinaw, the Indians to their villages and forward two companies of English deserters to Louisiana.

1761-2. Captain *Balfour* and Lieut *Gorrell* with English troops took possession under orders from Captain Etherington, October 12, 1761. This was in consequence of the conquest of Canada the previous year by the English and Colonial forces, and the surrender of Marquis *Vaudreuil*, Governor General of Canada. There was at that time but one family of Indians at the village, the others had gone to their hunting grounds. They found the Fort quite rotten and the stockade ready to fall. Captain *Balfour* left October 14, leaving Lieut. James *Gorrell* with a detachment of one sergeant and corporal and fifteen privates in possession.

August 12, of this year, we find that a delegation of Indians went from Milwaukee to Green Bay to make complaint against dishonest traders.

1763. The British post known as Fort Edward Augustus in charge of Lieut. *Gorrell* was abandoned June 25, 1763, during a temporary Indian outbreak.

Sir Wm. Johnson in a communication to the Plantation office, dated Nov. 18, 1763, says "the Menomonees, Folles Avouins, Puants, Saxis and Foxes who live on the west side of the La Baye, and near the Fort, number in all 1,200 men, and that they were at that time in alliance with the Ottawa Confederacy, but were inclined to the British interests.

Chas. De Langlade was re-appointed Indian Superintendent at Green Bay, and also reinstated in command of the militia.

On the 10th of February, of this year, the "Treaty of Paris" was held, and all

New France surrendered to the English.

1764-1766. The post at Mackinaw was re-occupied by the English under Capt. *Houard* this year, but there is no evidence that a military post was ever re-established at Green Bay while it remained under the Government of Great Britain, nor until after the war of 1812.

The celebrated traveler, Capt. *Jonathan Carver* arrived here September 18, 1766. There was no garrison nor had the building been kept in repair since it had been abandoned by Lieut. *Gorrell*. He found that a few families lived at the Fort and opposite to it on the east side of the river; there were a few French settlers who cultivated the land and appeared to live comfortably. This distinguished explorer passed up the Fox river to the Portage, descended the Wisconsin to the Mississippi which he ascended to the Falls of St. Anthony and explored a region of country, till then unvisited by white men.

1767. Sir Wm. Johnson writes to the Lords of Trade that the Indians at the Baye are desirous of having the post re-established, and says "that it is so well situated by reason of the water communication with but little interruption to the Mississippi, and so well calculated for all the Indians west of Lake Michigan, that it deserves to be taken much notice of." He also refers to the claim laid to that post by a gentleman by the name of *Grant*, in virtue of a purchase of *Vaudreuil*, and unless some action is taken very soon, some difficulties may arise.

1768-1779. We have but little information of the events occurring for a number of years after this date. The place was under British jurisdiction. There were but a few families residing at the Bay with their *engages*, and the business transacted was mostly of furs and peltries. Upon the breaking out of the revolutionary war *Chas. De Langlade*, then fifty-two years of age, was persuaded to take an active part should his services be needed. This gentleman had fought gallantly in the French and Indian war in the cause of France, and at this time was ready to fight for the British. It is believed that he was not called in open battle during the war, though he served in the Indian Department. During this war, nearly all of the French and English inhabitants at Green Bay, though virtually American citizens, were found in the ranks of the enemy. The few Americans that resided there were at the mercy of the British, and exposed to their depredations. Some were taken prisoners and conveyed to Detroit, and some made captive by the Indians.

1780-1781. In June of this year Capt. *John Long*, an English trader, was sent from Mackinaw to Prairie du Chien to

collect a quantity of peltries left at that place in charge of Mons. *Langlade*. He arrived at Green Bay, where he spent a few days; he says he obtained plenty of deer, bear, Indian corn, melons and other fruit,—that the houses were covered with birch bark, decorated with bows and arrows and weapons of war. In 1781 a treaty with the Indians was held at Mackinaw, by Lt. Gov. *Patrick Sinclair*, for the purchase of the Island of Mackinaw, Green Bay and Prairie du Chien, at which treaty *Pierre La Pointe*, a resident of Prairie du Chien, was interpreter. Three settlers at the latter place were present and saw the goods delivered to the Indians according to the stipulations of the treaty.

1781—1800. The settlement of Green Bay, from its first inception in 1745 to 1785, had made but little progress. Mr. *Aug. Grignon* says "that from his earliest recollection, say 1785, there were but seven families, who, with their assistants and employees, did not exceed fifty-six souls."

In 1789 an Indian council was held at Green Bay, at which time permission was given to *Julien Dubuque* to work the lead-mines on the Mississippi.

On the 1st of July, 1796, Green Bay and Prairie du Chien were surrendered to American authorities by the British.

1782—1816. The earliest mill erected in the county was by *Jacob Franks* in 1809. He first built a saw-mill and then a grist-mill, the latter had one run of stone, previous to this time grinding was done by hand-mills. In 1810 *Pierre Grignon* erected a small grist-mill with a run of stone three feet in diameter which, however, did not succeed. In 1813 *Grignon* built another mill on Reaume's Creek four miles above Green Bay.

Soon after the declaration of war in June, 1812, Col. Robert *Dickson*, an English trader at Prairie du Chien and agent, collected a considerable body of Indians at Green Bay for the purpose of rendering assistance to the British forces in their operations on the great lakes of the northwest. At the taking of Mackinaw by the British, July 17, 1811, we find this Col. *Dickson* very prominent, and also Capt. *Rolette* of Prairie du Chien. The official report of the surrender of that post, shows that 400 Indians of the Sioux, Fille Avoines, Puans and Chippewas were engaged in the British interest. After the taking of Mackinaw, Col. *McKay*, of the British army, proceeded west to Green Bay and passing up the Fox river and down the Wisconsin with a large force of British and Indians and captured the fort at Prairie du Chien after a desperate resistance. In 1815 a United States trading port was established at Green Bay, and Col. John *Bowyer* appointed Indian agent.

1816. On the 16th of July of this year Col. John *Miller* commenced the erection of Fort Howard with the troops which had arrived. He subsequently returned to Mackinaw leaving Col. *Talbot Chambers* in command. The only survivor of those who came here with the troops, is Moses *Hardwick* a native of Kentucky now nearly eighty years of age, residing in the town of Scott a few miles from the city. He came in the first American vessel laden with troops and supplies in August or September and anchored in Fox river.

Judge J. H. *Lockwood* came here in July of this year, and says "he found forty of fifty Canadians of French extraction cultivating the soil. The country then as it was for some eight years following, was under military rule, and extremely arbitrary. Green Bay was then a portion of Indiana territory, Vincennes being the seat of government. American settlers began to come in. Previous to this year there was no regular physician nearer than Mackinaw.

Mr. W. C. *Whitford* says: "No evidence can be found that the Jesuits ever opened a mission school in Wisconsin, before the American troops took possession of Fort Howard in 1816."

Jas. W. Biddle, of Pittsburg, Pa., came here in October or November. He had an interest in a contract for supplying the troops. He says, that the settlement was a promising and pleasing one, having comfortable houses, with numerous small farms, under good cultivation.

The first child born in this State, of unmixed white blood, was a daughter of *Mathew Irwin*, U. S. Factor, at Green Bay, 1816.

Aug. Grignon, in his "Recollections," says, that in 1785 the Bay contained seven families, and at the close of the war of 1812 there had been added about thirty Canadians and half-breeds from Canada. So that, in his opinion, the total number of men, women and children might have reached 150 souls at the beginning of 1816.

1817. S. A. *Storror*, Esq., Judge Advocate in the Army of the United States, was sent by Gen. *Jacob Brown* to visit the Northwestern posts, and on the 19th of September arrived in an open boat at Fort Howard. He found Maj. *Zachary Taylor* in command, by whom he was kindly entertained and by the officers of the 8d regiment. While here he made observations on the ebb and flow of the lake tides. From Fort Howard he proceeded south through the eastern tier of counties of Wisconsin to Milwaukee, and Fort Dearborn, at Chicago.

Two young men by the names of *Smith* and *Gunn*, grandsons of Capt. *Jonathan Carver*, left Green Bay this year in a bark

canoe for Prairie du Chien, by way of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, at which place they met Maj. *S. H. Long*, and proceeded with him up the Mississippi to the Falls of St. Anthony, with a view to establish their claims to the lands granted by the Indians to their grandfather.

1818. This year Illinois became a State, and the jurisdiction of the frontier settlements of Wisconsin was transferred to the Territory of Michigan, and the counties of Brown and Crawford, embracing what now constitutes the State of Wisconsin, were established and organized by proclamation issued by Gov. *Lewis Cass*, of Michigan Territory, Oct. 26, 1818. The following persons were appointed officers of Brown county:

Matthew Irwin, Chief Justice; *Charles Reaume*, *Benj. Chittenden*, Associates; *Robert Irwin, Jr.*, Clerk; *George Johnston*, Sheriff. Mr. *R. Irwin, Jr.*, died in 1833, highly respected by all. His widow and family are still residing at Green Bay.

In the summer of this year *Wm. Farnsworth*, now of Sheboygan, and *Ramsay Crooks*, of the American Fur Company, embarked in a birch-bark canoe from Mackinaw, passed up the lake and Green Bay, to the mouth of Fox river; thence through the Fox, Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers to St. Louis.

Col. *Abraham Edwards*, of Detroit, arrived here in May; while here, Inspector General *John E. Wool* arrived. The post was in command of Maj. *Z. Taylor*, *John Bowyer*, Indian agent.

1819. A census of the Indians taken this year, showed that there were 4,800 in the Green Bay agency.

H. R. Schoolcraft, as one of the expedition under Gov. *Lewis Cass*, appointed by the Government to visit the Northwestern posts, &c., arrived at Green Bay by way of the Wisconsin and Fox rivers, August 20, 1820. The expedition consisted of Gov. *Cass*, Dr. *Alex. Wolcott*, Capt. *D. B. Douglas*, Lieut. *A. McKay*, *R. A. Forsyth*, *O. C. Trowbridge*, *A. R. Chase* and *H. R. Schoolcraft*. *J. Duane Doty*, Secretary. He says of Green Bay, that there were over sixty dwellings and five hundred inhabitants, occupying about eighty buildings. The Algonquin name of the place is *Boatchweewaid*, a term which describes an eccentric or abrupt bay or inlet. Of the Fort, he says: "Log Barracks facing three sides of a square parade, surrounded by a stockade of timber thirty feet high, whitewashed and garrisoned by 300 men, under Capt. *Wm. Whistler*, in the absence of Col. *J. L. Smith*; also that there was at Camp *Smith*, three miles above Fort Brown, 500 infantry. Preparations were being made to erect a permanent fortification of stone." He also, like

many other visitors, notices the tides in the lake. The Fort was also visited this year by Gen. *Jacob Brown*, Commander-in-Chief of U. S. Army.

Jacques Porlier made application to the Indian agent for license to trade with the Indians, which was refused. Mr. *P.* came to the Territory of Michigan in 1787, and claimed citizenship under the Jay Treaty. His application was confirmed by the Government.

1820. *Daniel Whitney*, one of the most enterprising men of the recent settlers at Green Bay arrived, and soon after purchased a large tract of land on which he laid out the embryo city, now constituting the second and third wards. His widow and family are still residents of the city.

Isaac Leo was appointed agent, and visited Green Bay to collect evidence of titles and claims to lands held by the French settlers under Jay's treaty, and to report them to the United States Commissioners sitting at Detroit. None were allowed except such as were occupied in July, 1796, and few came within the provisions of the act of Congress; a subsequent act passed in 1823, made provision for donation of all such as were occupied July 1, 1812.

1821. The steamer *Walk-in-the-Water* left Detroit for Mackinaw, and Green Bay July 31, 1821, with 200 passengers and Government troops, and arrived at Green Bay August 5. Among the number was Rev. *Eleazar Williams*, missionary to the Oneida Indians with a deputation of the Six Nations. Gen. *Albert G. Ellis*, of Steven's Point, Wis., accompanied the party and was for a time school teacher for the Mission School of the New York Indians.

Difficulties however occurred with the Menomonees, who gave the Oneidas their land, and nearly ten years were spent in negotiations, which were concluded in 1832, and soon after the most of this band and a part of the St. Regis band removed and settled in Wisconsin.

Col. *Pinckney* and Captains *Garland* and *Green*, of the Third Infantry, arrived in June. *J. Biddle* and *H. B. Brevoort* were Indian agents.

On the 12th of September, 1822, the schooner *Tiger* arrived at Detroit from Green Bay with 12,000 pounds of lead, transported from the mines, the whole distance by water except at the portage.

Rev. Dr. *Jedidiah Morse*, the distinguished geographer, arrived here June 7, and remained fifteen days with Col. *Smith*, commandant.

Col. *Ebenezer Childs*, an early settler, arrived May 20, and says he made a trip to St. Louis in a birch bark canoe this year. The first postoffice was also established, *Robert Irwin*, postmaster. The

mail was carried from Green Bay to Detroit in the winter season by soldiers, and generally two mails within six months were all that were received.

A Frenchman, named *Ulrich*, was stabbed in October, near *Camp Smith*, by a Menomonee Indian, named *Kewabiskim*, and another, named *Pierre Grignon*, was murdered near the portage by a Menomonee. The murderers of *Ulrich* were caught, tried, and convicted at Detroit, and sentenced to be hung December 27, 1821, at which time a Chippewa Indian, named *Ketaukah*, was also hung for the murder of *Dr. Wm. S. Madison*, near Manitowoc.

Father *Gabriel Richards*, of Detroit, visited the Bay this year. He was afterwards the delegate of Michigan Territory in Congress.

1823. The Northwestern district of Michigan territory was formed, comprising the counties of Mackinac, Brown and Crawford—the two latter being the only counties west of Lake Michigan, and Hon. *James Duane Doty*, was appointed Judge. This year the Episcopal Missionary Society established at Green Bay in connection with the Mission among the Indians, a school of fifty white and half-breed children on the west side of Fox river. It was for several years in charge of Gen. *A. G. Ellis*.

1824. Hon. *Henry S. Baird* became a resident in July of this year, and still resides at Green Bay. In his "recollections of the early history of Northern Wisconsin" says: "The grounds around Fort Howard were used mostly for fields of grain and gardens. A portion of the present town of Fort Howard was used as a parade or drill-ground. The garrison consisted of four companies of the 3d Regiment of U. S. Infantry, and commanded by the late Gen. *John McNeil*. The settlement, so-called, extended from Fort Howard on the east, and from the premises of the late Judge *J. P. Arndt*, on the east side of Fox river, to the present village of Depere, a distance of about six miles, and beyond Depere, south or west, there was no white settlement, with the exception of two or three families, until you reached Prairie du Chien, a distance of 250 miles. There were six or eight resident American families, and the families of the officers stationed at Fort Howard, in number about the same. On the 23d of August, *J. H. Lockwood* was admitted to practice as an attorney by Judge *Doty*, the first lawyer in the State. He had previously received a commission from the government as Prosecuting Attorney for the counties of Brown and Crawford. The first term of the U. S. Court was held in October of this year, and Hon. *H. S. Baird* admitted to practice, and appointed

Prosecuting Attorney, *pro tem*. The first grand jury of Brown county was empanelled, and found one indictment for murder, a man named *Joice*, who was tried and convicted of manslaughter, and forty-two for lesser offenses. Of those who settled here this year, Hon. *H. S. Baird*, *Lewis Thompson* and their families are now residing in the city.

Rev. *Eleazar Williams* was licensed to perform the marriage ceremony.

Judge *J. P. Arndt*, before alluded to, came here in the fall, and made it his residence to his death, thirty years later. He was a County Judge and member of the Territorial Council.

1825-1829. At the June term of the U. S. Court 1826, a tavern license was granted to *J. P. Arndt* and ferry licenses to *Arndt* and *Louis Grignon*. From 1824 to 1828 there were annual sessions of the U. S. and county courts with little business transacted. Captain *W. G. Belknap* was indicted in 1825 for false imprisonment of *Isaac Rouse* and fined \$50. In 1827 Solomon Juneau declared his intention to become a citizen, and July 15, 1831 a certificate of naturalization was granted him. Hon. *M. L. Martin* admitted as attorney 1827.

Col. *W. S. Hamilton* arrived at Green Bay on the 28th of June, 1825 with a drove of cattle he had contracted with the government to deliver at the Fort. He found Major *Whistler* in command and Colonel *Brescoort*, Indian agent.

Col. *E. Childs* says he built the first frame house at Green Bay, and also the first as he believes in the state, 1825.

In the year 1825-1828 Judge *Doty* and *H. S. Baird* traveled from Green Bay to Prairie du Chien in a bark canoe, during which time there were no white settlements or inhabitants between the two places.

The Episcopal Church established a mission in 1825 under the superintendence of Rev. Mr. *Nash*, but it was discontinued in 1827. It was revived in 1829 under the care of Rev. *R. Cadle*, and again discontinued in 1837. December 2, 1838, Rev. Bishop *Kemper* consecrated a church at Duck Creek erected by Oneidas the funds received from the government and the following year Rev. *Solomon Davis* was placed in charge.

Gen. *Lewis Cass* and Col. *T. L. McKenny*, Commissioners appointed to treat with the Indians at Butte des Morts, met here.

J. H. Fonda of Prairie du Chien was here at the same time. He says: "That there were seven or eight hundred persons here, from the native Indian to the sons of Africa, and of all shades of color." The Indian affairs throughout the Territory had assumed a threatening aspect. Re-

ports of murders and disturbances had spread through the settlements. Mr. *Fonda* at the request of the United States Quartermaster, carried the mail to Fort Dearborn, through the eastern tier of counties.

During the year 1827, the missionary society determined to erect extensive buildings for a boarding school in which they might educate "children of full or mixed blood." Rev. *Richard S. Cadle* was selected to conduct the enterprise. This gentleman labored devotedly as teacher and Missionary at Green Bay and its vicinity, and became afterward Chaplain at Fort Howard and at Fort Crawford. The buildings which were erected in 1829 were situated on a high plateau overlooking Fox river, and cost \$9,000. The institution was not a success, and was closed in 1839.

This year Judge *Arndt* built the first saw mill on Indian land, with consent of the War Department.

During the year a party of men from Green Bay, in 1827, came up the Fox river to Fort Winnebago, co-operating with a force of men under General Atkinson in boats, and Generals Dodge and Whitesides, with companies of volunteers coming from below. The Indians finding a formidable army in the midst of their country, concluded a treaty of peace, and surrendered Red Wing, who had a year previous massacred a family near Prairie du Chien.

Gen. A. G. *Ellis* executed at Green Bay, this year, the first printing in Wisconsin.

Judge Gale, in his work on the "Upper Mississippi," says the first steamer on Lake Michigan was the "Henry Clay," which visited Green Bay with a pleasure party in August, 1827.

1828. In the fall of this year, the fifth regiment of U. S. infantry, came in barges from St. Louis, up the Mississippi and Wisconsin and down the Fox rivers to Fort Howard, without unloading. The high water enabled them to cross from the Wisconsin to the Fox river at Portage, tully laden, and to run the rapids of Fox river.

Col. *Ebenezer Brigham*, with others, visited Green Bay to attend an Indian council, in order to settle on certain boundaries between the whites and Indians. The lead region was purchased.

A remarkable case of attempt to murder occurred at Fort Howard. William *Prestige*, a soldier, entered the quarters of the notorious D. E. *Twiggs*, then a Major and in command at the post, while he was taking his after dinner nap. *Prestige* was armed with a musket, the muzzle of which he put to *Twiggs'* ear and pulled the trigger, intending to be and supposing he was sure of his victim. The gun missed fire,

but the click of the lock waked *Twiggs*, who sprang up and seized the gun and struck his assailant over the head, inflicting a terrible wound, fracturing the skull and laying him senseless upon the floor. *Prestige* had about six months more to serve out his enlistment, and *Twiggs*, instead of turning him over to the civil authorities to be tried and punished for the offense, detained him a prisoner under his own control, and subjected him to every species of torture he could devise. In the following year 1829 his term of service as a soldier having expired, he was indicted, tried, and on conviction sentenced to five years imprisonment. The President (*Adams*) upon representations to him of the brutal treatment to which *Prestige* had been subjected by *Twiggs*, immediately pardoned him.

A log school house was built this year. Miss *C. Russell* taught, and was succeeded by Miss *F. Sears*.

Fort Winnebago was established this season by *Twiggs*. His prisoner *Prestige* was kept chained to a tree with no shelter or bedding, and without comfortable clothing.

1829. A Methodist Mission established among the Oneidas by a young Mohawk, who had been converted in Canada. In the month of May, Judge *Doty*, M. L. *Martin* and H. S. *Baird* left Green Bay on horseback, and traveled over the country to Prairie du Chien, being the first party of white men that had attempted and accomplished the journey.

In October the first public meeting was held of the inhabitants of Green Bay. *Louis Grignon*, chairman, M. L. *Martin* secretary, to represent to Congress among other matters, the necessity of a road from Green Bay to Chicago, and the improvement of the navigation of the Fox river.

1830. Hon *Erastus Root*, John T. *Mason* and J. *McCall*, U. S. Commissioners, arrived in August to settle Indian difficulties, but did not succeed. The commission broke up without accomplishing any thing.

A Catholic Mission school was opened by Rev. *Samuel Mazzuchelli*, an Italian priest. The mission was aided by the Government, out of the annuities paid to the Menomonee Indians.

This year the town of Navarino, now known as the north ward of the city of Green Bay, was laid out by *Daniel Whitney*.

Col. *Stambaugh*, Indian agent, went to Washington with a delegation of the New York Indians, and Menomonees, to settle a difficulty between these nations on the boundaries of their lands.

The population of Brown county as shown by the census report, was 1,500.

Mrs. *John H. Kinzie*, the author of "Wau-

bun, the early day in the north west," arrived here in October, at the same time when the U. S. Commissioners were assembled.

1831-32. In 1831 the Government purchased of the Indians the country lying between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi, Fox and Wisconsin rivers. Hitherto these lands, except a narrow strip on both sides of the Fox river at Green Bay and the reservation of the New York tribes, were owned by the Menomonees and Winnebagoes. The tardiness of the Government in acquiring title to these lands was a great drawback to the settlement and improvement of the country.

Judge J. D. Doty and Lieut. Centre were appointed commissioners for surveying and locating a military road from Green Bay to Chicago, and west to Prairie du Chien.

The year 1832 is memorable, as the Black Hawk war occurred within the boundaries of our State. Green Bay was not particularly affected, as the Government had made necessary preparation at its post at Fort Howard. It is well known that *Black Hawk* had invited the tribes at the Bay to join the confederacy. This war for a brief period retarded immigration and the settlement of the State. A school was established at Depere 1833. J. Y. Smith erected a flouring mill on Hell Creek a mile and a half from Fort Howard 1833. Col. Chas. Whittlesey, now of Cleveland, O., visited Green Bay, and arrived here May 15, 1832, and stayed till September of that year. There was no arrival of steamers during that time.

1833. The first newspaper published within the State was the *Green Bay Intelligencer*, J. V. Suydam and A. G. Ellis, publishers. The first issue was Dec. 11.

The importance of the improvement of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers was realized by the people of Green Bay, and a second public meeting was held Nov. 10, 1833, to memorialize Congress on the subject.

There were eight murder trials in the five years terminating in 1833; three only were convicted and executed, all soldiers from the garrisons at Fort Howard and Mackinaw. In July *Daniel Le Roy*, M. L. Martin and P. B. Grignon explored the country from Green Bay south as far as Milwaukee. There were only Indian villages at Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Waukesha and Fond du Lac. S. Ju-neau was trading at Milwaukee. They were the only whites on the whole route.

1834. The first mail route from Green Bay to Chicago was established, and Peter B. Grignon, now a resident of Green Bay, was the first contractor. The small weekly paper at the Bay used to repeat the refrain:

"Three times a week, without any fail,

At four o'clock we look for the mail.

Brought with despatch on an Indian trail."

The *Wisconsin Free Press* was started with R. Stevenson, publisher, J. Dickinson, editor, and was continued until purchased by C. C. Sholes, and merged in the *Wisconsin Democrat*.

The public lands near Green Bay were surveyed this year by Gen. A. G. Ellis, and a United States Land Office opened.

On the 16th of July, Rev. Drs. Milnor and Kemper arrived in the steamer Michigan as agents of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church, to visit the Mission School.

Judge Arndt shipped the first cargo of lumber from Green Bay to Chicago. It was shipped on Devil river at the mouth of Hell Creek. It was doubtless "well seasoned."

1835. H. R. Schoolcraft, Indian agent at Mackinaw, and Geo. W. Featherstonhaugh, United States Geologist, arrived in August; the latter went to Prairie du Chien by water.

Col. Wm. B. Slaughter was appointed Register, and S. W. Beall Receiver of the Public Land office, the former resided here from August, 1835, to February, 1837.

The town of Astor, now known as the South Ward of the city, was opened and laid out by John Jacob Astor, Rainey Crooks, and Robert Stuart on the land formerly owned by John Laue and the Grignon family, and originally owned by the American Fur Company.

This year the citizens of Green Bay obtained a charter of the Michigan Legislature to build a dam across Fox river at Depere, by which the navigation of the river was much improved.

Delegates were appointed to form a State constitution for Michigan, which being effected left the region west of Lake Michigan to be organized into the separate territory of Wisconsin.

The Legislature of Michigan, by act approved January 23, 1835, incorporated the Bank of Wisconsin, to be located at Green Bay or Mineral Point, as a majority of the stockholders should determine. It was located at Green Bay, but after doing business a short time it was closed up.

1836. The first session of the Legislative Council of Michigan convened at Green Bay, at which a memorial to Congress was drawn up for the formation of the new territory of Wisconsin. The territorial government was established by Congress April 20, 1836, and was fully organized July 4, 1836. Gov. Dodge was appointed commissioner to hold a treaty with the Menomonees. The treaty was held at Cedar Rapids on Fox river. Four millions of acres was ceded to the

government west and north of Winnebago Lake and Fox river, including a strip of country three miles in width on each side of the Wisconsin river and forty-eight miles in length.

An act of the Territorial Legislature was approved Dec. 9, 1836 to change the seat of Justice of Brown county subject to the vote of the people. The Wisconsin Democrat newspaper was first published in August 1836 by *H. O.* and *O. O. Sholes*, and was continued two years or more. One of its principal objects was to promote the improvement of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers to open a connection with the Mississippi, this says Mr. *O. O. Sholes* was the "Green Bay Hobby," and the Milwaukee and Rock river canal the "Milwaukee Hobby." At that time the prospects of Green Bay as an important business point were supposed to be superior to Milwaukee. Edward and Colwert *Pier* the two first settlers of Fond du Lac arrived here in February en route for the latter place.

H. A. Gallup, an early settler of Oshkosh, arrived here August 5.

A Congregational church was organized Jan. 9 of this year, by Rev. *Cutting Marsh* with 12 members. Rev. Mr. *Ordway* was minister from Oct., 1836 to March, 1837, succeeded by Rev. *S. Peet* from Oct., 1837, to Oct., 1839.

The church building was erected in 1839, forty by sixty feet, at an expense of

\$3,000. The bell cost \$300, and was the gift of *John Jacob Astor*, who also contributed \$500 to the building fund.

The first vessel, the schooner "Wisconsin," was built by Judge *Arndt*, 140 tons burthen.

1837. An act of the Wisconsin Legislature, approved Dec. 13, 1837, established the "Wisconsin University" at Green Bay. This was designed to fill the place of the mission school of the Foreign and Domestic Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church, for the education of Indian children. At the next session of the Legislature an act was approved Dec. 22, 1838, changing the name to "Hobart University of Green Bay."

Capt. *Francis Marryat*, an English author, arrived here, and accompanied the commanding officer, Maj. F., with a detachment of 100 troops, to Fort Winnebago, by land.

1838. An act was passed by the Territorial Legislature to establish the Borough of Green Bay and approved January 17, and at the same session certain other towns in Brown and Crawford counties were established.

As the subsequent history of Green Bay is of comparatively recent date, and this year completing two hundred years since the visit of the first explorer in 1639 we will here close our chronological narrative.

NOTE.—This paper has received the careful examination of Hon. MORGAN L. MARTIN, a resident of nearly a half a century at Green Bay, who has kindly furnished additional information, obtained from personal knowledge.